

MNC-5128
5 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- November

I. GENERAL

A. The local communist party, AKEL, seized upon the construction of our new bureau as an issue to embarrass the Kyprianou government during the November-December election campaign. The specific charge was that President Kyprianou had approved the construction of a large "spy station" on the outskirts of Nicosia. The communist party newspaper has carried several articles, editorials, political cartoons, and pictures on the subject. The pictures showed several bureau employees inspecting the site and the bureau car. As the month and campaign progressed, references were confined to grouping the construction of the "spy station" with several other examples of "concessions granted to the imperialists" by President Kyprianou. We were advised by the embassy that the Libyan ambassador had expressed concern to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) that the new "spy station" was targeted against monitoring diplomatic signals emanating from his chancery. We provided the embassy with background briefing material to assist the MFA in dispelling and countering this concern. Thus far the espionage incident involving former FBIS employee Larry Chin has not been raised in the AKEL campaign.

B. Work on the new bureau progressed more slowly than expected, primarily because the contractor ceased work on the site for 9 days while an overhead high-voltage powerline was removed. Although we are now behind schedule, our architect believes the contractor can make up the lost time. Efforts to find a qualified landscape architect, a rare commodity on Cyprus, were initiated. All applications for utilities have been submitted to the authorities. Selection of interior fittings, tiles, ceilings also has been completed.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The 23 November hijacking of an Egyptair airliner on a flight from Athens to Cairo prompted the bureau to place monitorable Cairo and Athens radios on open speaker watch. In light of a Cairo MENA report that the hijackers would announce their demands "later," the bureau remained open past its normal 2300 GMT close of business to monitor MENA until sign-off and to check the last scheduled Athens Domestic Service newscast for any further reportage on the hijacking. The bureau again extended its operating hours on 24 November to monitor an expected Egyptian "communique" on the storming of the hijacked aircraft in Valetta by Egyptian troops.

2. The Christian Lebanese Forces' clandestine Radio Free Lebanon resumed transmission on 14 November following 6 weeks of silence. The station observed an "experimental transmission period" of 4 days, after which it returned to normal programming. It has been restored to bureau coverage.

3. In line with a work stoppage declared by the technical and editorial staff of AFP over a salary dispute, all services were halted from 1215 GMT to 1830 GMT on 6 November. AFP's EXOR service, monitored via landline at the bureau, ceased transmission for that period of time. An apology to subscribers was transmitted at 1830 GMT, and normal service then resumed.

4. The 29 November edition of Beirut's AL-NAHAR reported that a new radio station, "The Voice of the Port of Tripoli," has been established in Tripoli, Lebanon, and that experimental transmissions have begun. The station has not yet been monitored at Nicosia Bureau.

5. Istanbul HURGUN in Turkish, a newspaper that was added to coverage in October, announced in its 3 November edition that it was terminating publication, hinting at financial problems.

B. Lateral Services

Acting on a request relayed by the Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, the bureau has arranged to pass a copy of the West Europe DAILY REPORT on a regular basis to an official in the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has just returned from a post in the United States, where he found the product very helpful.

C. Technical

1. A 16-line patch panel has been rebuilt for use in the bureau's plans to alter teletype signalling from high level neutral to low level RS 232 standard.

2. Equipment received: One Comscribe Model IIIC terminal.



STAT

Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for November 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	316420
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	83970
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	973

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	8565.00	22260.00	117.00
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing in			
Persian to Iran	0		
CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)			
*(CLANDESTINE) Radio Free Lebanon in			
English	430		
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
Arabic	9760		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in			
Arabic	14510		
CYPRUS			
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
Greek	13150		
*Nicosia Television Service in			
Greek	720		
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in			
English			1520
Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA in			
Greek			1580
Nicosia I SIMERINI in			
Greek			850
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			480
Nicosia KHARAVYI in			
Greek			4960
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			230
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS in			
Greek			2270
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS tis			
DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
*Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in English			2710
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	48590		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	1290		
* (Editorial Report in Arabic)	250		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		64850	
Cairo MENA in English		3540	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		28750	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	20610		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			440
Athens ELEVOTHEROTIPIA in Greek			2720
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			1310
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVOTHEROTIPIA in Greek			230
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			5080
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	37620		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	24350		
*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English	170		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	2030		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			1120
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			1550
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			6030
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	2380		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
*Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			470
Istanbul CUMHURİYET in Turkish			2810
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			510
*Istanbul HURGUN in Turkish			990
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			1410
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			1070
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			0
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	0		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	3080		